

[Diedrich Hollman]

[??] [??] [?]

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Eilert Mohlman ADDRESS Columbus, Nebr.

DATE November 9, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Diedrich Hollman, 9th St. -23rd Ave., Columbus, Nebr.
2. Date and time of interview Nov. 9/38 -2-30 - 4-30 p.m.
3. Place of interview At his home
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Living room, comfortably furnished, but rather ancient; house modern, conveniently located to school and stores.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Eilert Mohlman ADDRESS Columbus, Nebr.

DATE November 9, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Diedrich Hollman, Columbus, Nebr.

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1. Ancestry German
2. Place and date of birth Ostrittrum, Germany. March 17, 1859.
3. Family Wife, six boys, all living
4. Place lived in, with dates Germany 1859-1893. Near Creston Nebr., 1893-1923. Columbus, Nebr., 1923 to date.
5. Education, with dates Country schools 1868-1875
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Farming till 1923
7. Special skills and interests Making wooden shoes - raising live stock
8. Community and religious activities Lutheran belief - active in church affairs.
9. Description of informant Of slender medium build
10. Other points gained in interview Has always worked hard and still believes that the old fashioned ways and hard knocks in life are necessary to the younger generation of today.

FORM C Text of Interview Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Eilert Mohlman ADDRESS Columbus, Nebr.

DATE November 9, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Diedrich Hollman, 9th St. 23rd Ave Columbus, Nebr.

There is not so much I can tell of my early life. I was born in Ostrittrum, Germany, on the 17th of March, 1859, and always lived on the farm.

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When I was about fifteen years old until I was twenty, my work was herding large flocks of sheep; they used to feed on what they call "haer", which is a grass that grows very thick and does not grow in this country; it is very nourishing and grows in the lowlands and the ground where it grows is very rich. There were many large fields of it, as far as you could see and it was all very level.

When I wasn't herding sheep I used to make wooden shoes, thousands of pairs. I used to make 50 pairs a week and everybody wore them.

Some years after I was married my health was not very good, and the doctor told me that a sea voyage could be good for my health; so in 1893 I decided to come to America, and came direct to Platte County, Nebraska, where my uncle lived and stayed with him a while and made wooden shoes. Then I worked on a farm as a hired hand for four years when I went back to Germany to get my son, who was sickly, and I sold my farm there in 1899.

As my wife had died there, I was married again in New York and we came back to Nebraska and stayed on a farm for about a year, and then bought my own farm near Creston, Nebraska, where we lived until 1921.

We saw some pretty hard times in those early years. One year there were grasshoppers; they came just like a cloud and settled on a wheat field and in one day they ate it all. There was a jacket left in the field and when they had left the jacket was gone too; they did not stay very long and did not go in another field we had close by.

In 1921 my wife and I went back to Germany for a visit; we had intended to stay there, as my one son was still living there, but after we were there for about a year, my health got poor again, so we came back to America in 1922.

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On my visit back there I noticed so many changes. The fields where I herded sheep years ago, was all built up in what is called "colonies". After we got back we lived on the farm a while but retired and moved to town.

Form D Supplementary

Mrs. Prim on Scandal

No, my dear - goodness be thanked - no person can say that I ever scandalized any one, not even my worst enemy, no matter what he or she may do. I've had chances enough to talk if I had a mind to, as every one knows full well. Of course living right here in the high street of town, I can't help seeing a great many queer things; and when our windows are open and the blinds shut up in the summer, I can hear them, too! But I never repeat them - I scorn to make mischief, I never lisp a word, except I get hold of some person like you, my dear, that I know I can trust. And if a body is never to open her mouth among her intimate friends, why the world isn't worth living, is it? But that isn't scandal you know. I hate and [abhor?] that just as much as you do, and I don't think anyone can say that I was ever guilty of it in my life.

But then, as I said before, it isn't for the want of a chance. Why, only last evening as I was, who do you think I saw walking up by here, in the bright moonlight, as brazen as you please, but Mrs. Lenox and Colonel Parker? Fact, as sure as you sit in that chair! and they were walking close together, and talking so confidential!

I suppose you know all about the disgraceful affair with the school girls? No? My dear you must really live in the ark! Why they have been writing a lot of anonymous letters to people here in town, and the postmaster suspected what was up at last, and he kept a quiet look-out, and caught some of them putting the letters in. I don't know what Miss Clackett will do. Expel them, I hope; great girls like

Supplementary

those have no business to act so!

There's Mrs. Price going by. I suppose she has been down to cheapen a fowl, or get half a penny or two taken off a joint of meat. She's the stingiest thing, my dear; it would really make your heart ache to hear the way she manages and contrives. And there is her husband one of the richest men in town, and folks do say that he can't get a decent meal of vittuals in his own house. Wouldn't you - What! Going! Can't you stay any longer? well, do come again very soon, won't you? Goodbye. - Thank goodness, she has gone! I really thought she was going to stay all night! I heard a nice story about her; by the way last week - how shamefully she treats her servants! suppose she thinks I don't know. I might make mischief enough in her family if I choose. But I abhor scandal.